



United States Department of the Interior

KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

P.O. Box 2139
Soldotna, Alaska 99669-2139
(907) 262-7021

IN REPLY REFER TO:

07048kam

NEWS RELEASE

June 15, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

TELEPHONE: (907) 262-7021

TTY: 260-2803

LILY LAKE PRESCRIBED FIRE PROJECT BEGINS JUNE 21, 2007

If favorable weather and fuel conditions persist, the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge is planning to continue implementation of the Lily Lake prescribed fire project on Thursday (06/21/07). This project, which was initiated in 2003, is designed to reduce wildland fire-hazard fuels (black spruce) and improve moose habitat by encouraging hardwood regeneration. A wet summer, prevented progress on the project last year.

Lily Lake is a large prescribed burn, consisting of 184 acres of hydro-axed black spruce, aspen, and birch, surrounding 247 acres of standing black spruce forest. The unit is located north of the Sterling Highway and the Enstar natural gas pipeline, and adjacent to the East Fork of the Moose River.

The Lily Lake Prescribed Fire Project is one small part of a larger interagency effort to address the issues of public safety and wildland fire mitigation on the Kenai Peninsula. It is consistent with the National Fire Plan, with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

fire management policy, and with the findings and recommendations of the Kenai Peninsula Spruce Bark Beetle Task Force. All planned activities for this project are covered in an approved prescribed fire plan, which has been reviewed by the appropriate U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service line officers and other agency fire management officials. The Burn Boss and line officers in the prescribed fire organization will comply with all elements of the prescribed fire plan - before, during and after the ignition of any unit. Prescriptive parameters such as wind speed, wind direction, smoke dispersion and fire behavior will be constantly monitored during firing operations. Any safety, smoke, weather or fire behavior condition that exceeds approved parameters or agency policy will result in a cessation of firing operations.

Fire management resources that will be involved in the project include: two helicopters (one with a bucket), two dozers, several wildland fire engines, and experienced firefighters from the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge, the Koyukuk NWR, the Chugach National Forest, the National Park Service and the Kenai NWR.

For more information about the Lily Lake project, contact the Refuge Manager, Robin West, or Fire Management Officer, Doug Newbould, at the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge: (907) 260-5994 or 262-7021.

X X X